

Welcome to the Probate and Family Court Department of the Massachusetts Trial Court.

Many Probate and
Family Law matters
involve complex and
valuable legal rights.
You should always
speak with an attorney
before filing any papers.

LOOKING FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE?

This booklet contains a list of Lawyer Referral Services, Free Legal Resources and Legal Aid Agencies in

HAMPDEN COUNTY

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

MASSACHUSETTS BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel.

Call (617) 654-0400 or (800) 392-6164 e-mail: lrs@massbar.org To register online, visit www.massbar.org/lawhelp/

BOSTON BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

Referrals to private attorneys, including reduced fee panel. Serves mainly Greater Boston, inside Route 495, but will provide referrals throughout Massachusetts.

Call (617) 742-0625 or e-mail: lrs@bostonbar.org For more information, visit www.bostonbar.org/lrs/index

Lawyer Referral Service of

Hampden County Bar Association

Referrals to private attorneys in Hampden County.

Call (413) 732-4648

LEGAL RESOURCES

The Massachusetts Trial Court provides free legal resources

Massachusetts Judicial Branch Web Site

The official web site of the Judicial Branch includes judicial profiles, addresses, phone numbers and directions for courthouses as well as other useful information about the Trial Court. Click on www.state.ma.us/courts

HAMPDEN LAW LIBRARY

50 State Street, P.O. Box 559 Springfield, MA 01102-0559

The Massachusetts Trial Court Law Libraries are open to the public, providing legal reference services and legal research assistance. The library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Ask at the Registry of Probate for the Law Libraries pamphlet which provides more details.

Call (413) 748-7923 or visit the Law Libraries web site www.lawlib.state.ma.us

Free resources offered by the Massachusetts Bar Association

Tel-Law

Tel-Law is a collection of recorded messages designed to answer basic questions about the law. Tel-Law is fully automated and you can access it 24 hours/day by calling (617) 338-0669. (Toll charges may apply)

WEB SITE

The MBA's web site offers answers to basic legal questions. Point your browser to www.massbar.org

Dial-A-Lawyer

The first Wednesday of every month you can get free legal help, by telephone, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Lawyer volunteers staff phones to answer your questions.

Call (617) 338-0610

LEGAL SERVICE AGENCIES

These resources are available only to very low income and elderly individuals

Massachusetts Justice Project

57 Suffolk Street, Suite 401 Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 533-2660 or (800) 639-1209

Provides initial intake, advice or brief service in domestic relations cases. Refers eligible clients to legal service program and pro bono attorneys. Volunteer Lawyer Service Massachusetts Justice Project 57 Suffolk Street, Suite 401 Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 533-2660 or (800) 639-1209

Private attorneys represent qualifying indigent clients on domestic relations issues at no cost. Attorneys will provide advice or full representation.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS LEGAL SERVICES 127 State Street Springfield, MA 01103

For intake, call (413) 533-2660 or (800) 639-1209 Provides advice and direct representation in divorce, assistance to preserve existing child custody arrangements, protection from domestic violence and problems with DSS where there is no appointed counsel. Clinic for no fault divorces.

LEGAL ADVOCACY & RESOURCE CENTER

Provides telephone information, pro se assistance and referrals to legal service agencies. Intake hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Call (800) 342-5297

LAWYER

OF THE

DAY

Private, volunteer attorney offers brief consultation at the courthouse providing basic legal advice to qualifying individuals on a walk-in basis. Attorney does not continue to advise the individual after the initial meeting or accompany individual into the courtroom. Attorney may not be available every day. For availability, call (413) 748-7761 or ask at the Registry of Probate.

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